

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4, of the specification (a marked up version of a substitute specification was submitted with this application on January 12, 2006) with the following amended paragraph:

-- A first blade 1 and a second blade 2 are pivotally joined together at a center portion 3. The first blade 1 and the second blade 2 have a cutting portion 4 and a cutting portion 5, respectively, each of which extends distally from the center portion 3. Likewise, the first blade 1 and the second blade 2 have a first handle portion 6 and a second handle portion 7, respectively, each of which extends proximally from the center portion 3. The first handle portion 6 and the second handle portion 7 include a finger ring (a finger support) 10 and a finger ring (a finger support) 11, respectively. The finger ring 10 and the finger ring 11 are secured to a joint portion 8 of the first blade 1 and a joint portion 9 of the second blade 2, respectively. Each of the joint portions 8, 9 extends from the corresponding one of the cutting portions 4, 5. The first and second blades 1, 2 are formed of metal. The finger rings 10, 11 of the first and second handle portions 6, 7 are formed of synthetic resin. Each of the ~~fingers other than the thumb, or the~~ forefinger, the middle finger, the ring finger, and the pinky finger [[,]] is entirely or partially passed through the finger ring 10 of the first handle portion 6. The finger ring 10 is thus referred to as a "four-finger ring". The thumb is passed through the finger ring 11 of the second handle portion 7 and thus the finger ring 11 is referred to as a "thumb ring". --

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 (i.e. beginning at the bottom of page 16, last line or two) with the following amended paragraph:

-- (7) Each of the outer cover portions 32, 39 has the opposing ends 32a, 32b or 39a, 39b. The ends 32a, 39a are each exposed from the exposed end 21a and form the steps 34 with respect to the exposed end 21a. When the blades 1, 2 are manipulated with the corresponding fingers held in contact with the outer cover portions 32, 39 of the finger support 10 outside the finger support 10, interference between the fingers and the embedded joint portion 21 of the first blade 1 ~~does~~ does not occur easily. This reliably maintains contact between the fingers and the outer cover portions 32, 39 of the finger support 10. The fingers outside the finger support 10 are thus held in a comfortable state. --